

## Follow Up Report: #19-419

### October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Partially Treated Effluent Spill

---

The following information refers to spill 2019-419 reported by Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd. October 10<sup>th</sup> 2019, and is being provided in accordance with:

- the Nunavut Water Board License 2AM-MEL1631 Water License, part H, item 8c and;

#### Description of Incident

On October 10<sup>th</sup> 2019, an overflow check valve failed in the Meliadine main camp sewage treatment plant (63° 2'23.31"N, 92°13'41.07"W). The blockage caused the one of the tanks to overflow, releasing partially treated effluent into the treatment plant. When the operator opened the door to assess the issue, approximately 20L of partially treated effluent flowed onto the industrial pad.

No water bodies were impacted by this release. The nearest natural water body lies approximately 275m from the spill location.



**Figure 1:** Location of main camp STP and proximity to Meliadine Lake.

#### Spill Response & Cleanup

In response to the overflow, the treatment plant operator redirected influent flow to another tank. Effluent contained within the building was removed using a vacuum truck and input back into the system. Effluent contaminated gravel on the industrial pad was removed and disposed of in accordance with the waste management plan.

## Cause of Incident and Corrective Measures

The overflow was caused by a blockage in the check valve, which is designed to allow flow between tanks. The blockage was cleared using high pressure water. The blockage was caused by a temporary build-up of suspended solids in the check-valve. An anti-foaming agent was added to improve flow through the check-valve and prevent blockages occurring in the future. Daily inspections and routine preventative maintenance had been completed as required prior to the spill.



**Dan Gorton** | Environmental Coordinator

[dan.gorton@agnicoeagle.com](mailto:dan.gorton@agnicoeagle.com) | Direct 819.759.3555 x4603996 |

Agnico Eagle Mines Limited - Meliadine Mine, Suite 879 - Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, Canada X0C 0G0

[agnicoeagle.com](http://agnicoeagle.com)

